

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice.

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A method for folding an inflatable cushion of a side airbag device to form a folded inflatable cushion that includes a packet of parallel pleats comprising a first end pleat, a second end pleat and a series of middle pleats disposed therebetween, said method comprising:

providing a securement end of said inflatable cushion;

creating the first end pleat adjacent to said securement end, said first end pleat and said securement end defining one side of the folded inflatable cushion;

creating a traversing portion extending from said first end pleat, said traversing portion defining another side of the folded inflatable cushion;

creating the second end pleat extending from the traversing portion such that the first end pleat and the second end pleat are spaced apart by the traversing portion;

creating said middle pleats extending from the second end pleat towards the first end pleat; said middle pleats including a final middle pleat adjacent to the first end pleat

positioning an end portion extending from the final middle pleat toward the second end pleat opposite the traversing portion and disposed about the second end pleat, said end portion defining another two sides of the folded inflatable cushion, wherein said end portion is the first portion of said inflatable cushion to deploy when the inflatable cushion is inflated.

Claim 10. (Original) The method as in claim 9, wherein said securement end has a plurality of securement features for facilitating the securement of said inflatable cushion.

Claim 11. (Original) The method as in claim 9, wherein said side air bag device is installed in a vehicle having a roof rail and a headliner, wherein said inflatable cushion is folded to be received within an area defined by the roof rail and the headliner.

Claim 12. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein said end portion is configured to be adjacent to the headliner.

Claim 13. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein said traversing portion is configured to be adjacent to the roof rail.

Claim 14. (Original) The method as in claim 9, wherein said traversing portion is configured to be adjacent to the roof rail.

Claim 15. (Original) The method as in claim 9, wherein said inflatable cushion is folded by a machine.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method for folding an inflatable cushion of a side airbag device to form a folded inflatable cushion that includes a packet of parallel pleats comprising a first end pleat, a second end pleat and a series of middle pleats disposed therebetween, said method comprising;

providing a securement end of said inflatable cushion;

creating a traversing portion of said inflatable cushion from said securement end, said traversing portion defining a side of the folded inflatable cushion;

creating the first end pleat extending from the traversing portion apart from the securement end;

creating said middle pleats extending from the first end pleat back towards said securement end;

creating the second end pleat extending from the middle pleats adjacent to the securement end;

positioning an end portion of said portion of said inflatable cushion extending from the second end pleat about the middle pleats opposite the traversing portions and disposed about the first end pleat, said end portion defining two sides of the folded inflatable cushion, wherein said end portion is the first portion of said inflatable cushion to deploy when the inflatable cushion is inflated.

Claim 17. (Original) The method as in claim 16, wherein said securement end has a plurality of securement features for facilitating the securement of said inflatable cushion.

Claim 18. (Original) The method as in claim 16, wherein said side air bag device is installed in a vehicle having a roof rail and a headliner, wherein said inflatable cushion is folded to be received within an area defined by the roof rail and the headliner and said end portion is configured to be adjacent to the headliner.

Claim 19. (Original) The method as in claim 18, wherein said traversing portion is configured to be adjacent to the roof rail.